



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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CONTACT: Lynn Whitehouse
619-236-5821

CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI DISCUSSES HER NEW NOVEL, THE PLACE OF ILLUSIONS, AT SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY *Called “vivid and inventive. . . rich, action-filled. . . complex” by Publisher’s Weekly*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library and San Diego Writers, Ink will host an author talk by award-winning author and poet Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Her work is widely known, as she has been published in over 50 magazines, including the *Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker*, and her writing included in over 50 anthologies; her works have been translated into 13 languages, including Dutch, Hebrew and Japanese. Divakaruni will introduce her newest book, *The Palace of Illusions*, on Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The event is FREE to the public.

The Palace of Illusions is relevant to today’s war-torn world, taking us back to the time of the Indian epic The Mahabharat—a time that is half-history, half-myth, and wholly magical. Through her narrator, Panchaali, the wife of the legendary five Pandavas brothers, Divakaruni gives us a rare feminist interpretation of an epic story. Warwick’s will sell copies of her book at the event.

Divakaruni was born in India and lived there until 1976, at which point she left Calcutta and came to the United States. She continued her education in the field of English by receiving a Master’s degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Divakaruni currently teaches in the nationally ranked Creative Writing program at the University of Houston. She serves on the board of Maitri in the San Francisco Bay Area and on the Advisory Board of Daya in Houston. Both these are organizations that help South Asian or South Asian American women who find themselves in abusive or domestic violence situations. She is also on the board of Pratham, an organization that helps educate children (especially those living in urban slums) in India.

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Divakaruni has judged several prestigious awards, such as the National Book Award and the PEN Faulkner Award.

Two of her books, *The Mistress of Spices* and *Sister of My Heart*, have been made into movies by filmmakers Gurinder Chadha and Paul Berges (an English film) and Suhasini Mani Ratnam (a Tamil TV serial), respectively.

San Diego Writers, Ink nurtures writers and those wishing to explore the craft of writing, in addition to fostering a literary community, promoting literature and celebrating artistic diversity. There is information about this organization online at www.sandiegowriters.org.

Free parking is available at the Five Star Parking lot adjacent to the Library on Broadway and 8th on Saturdays.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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